

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 and 14-21 are in this case. Claims 1-3, 14, 18, 19 and 21 have been rejected under § 102(e). Claims 4-6, 8, 9, 16, 17 and 20 have been rejected under § 103(a). Claims 7, 10-12 and 15 have been objected to. Dependent claims 3-5, 7-10, 14 and 15 have been canceled. Independent claims 1, 18 and 21 and dependent claims 6, 11, 12, 16 and 17 have been amended. New independent claims 22-27 have been added.

§ 102(3) Rejections – Maimon et al. ‘270

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 14, 18, 19 and 21 under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Maimon et al., US Patent No. 6,374,270 (henceforth, “Maimon et al. ‘270”). The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3 and 14 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection of these claims.

As discussed below, claims 1, 18 and 21 have been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 3-5 and 7. It follows that claim 2 that depends from claim 1 and claim 19 that depends from claim 18 also are allowable.

§ 103(a) Rejections – Maimon et al. ‘270 in view of Kelman et al. ‘255

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-6, 8, 9, 16, 17 and 20 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maimon et al. ‘270 in view of Kelman et al., US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0093255. The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5, 8 and 9 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

As discussed below, claims 1, 18 and 21 have been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 3-5 and 7. It follows that claim 6 that depends from claim 1 and claim 20 that depends from claim 18 also are allowable.

Also as discussed below, claim 16 has been placed in condition for allowance by being amended to depend from new claim 23 and claim 17 has been placed in condition for allowance by being amended to depend from new claim 22.

Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 7, 10-12 and 15 as being based on rejected base claims. The Examiner has noted that claims 7, 10-12 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 3-5 and 7. Correspondingly, claims 3-5 and 7 have been canceled, claim 6 has been amended to depend directly from claim 1, and the steps of claim 6 have been renumbered. Claims 18 and 21 have been placed in condition for allowance in the same manner as claim 1: by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 3-5 and 7.


Claim 10 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 22. Correspondingly, claims 8-10 have been canceled and claims 11, 12 and 17 have been amended to depend from new claim 22. Similarly, new claims 24 and 26 have been added. New claim 24 is claim 18 as filed and also including the limitations of claims

8-10. New claim 26 is claim 21 as filed and also including the limitations of claims 8-10. New claims 24 and 26 are allowable for the same reasons as new claim 22.

Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 23. Correspondingly, claims 14 and 15 have been canceled and claim 16 has been amended to depend from new claim 23. Similarly, new claims 25 and 27 have been added. New claim 25 is claim 18 as filed and also including the limitations of claims 14 and 15. New claim 27 is claim 21 as filed and also including the limitations of claims 14 and 15. New claims 25 and 27 are allowable for the same reasons as new claim 23.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 18 and 21-27 and hence dependent claims 2, 6, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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